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**Subject:** jhm comment to CA Water Plan Update 2018

## Citizens for Responsible Watershed Management comment to Water Plan Update 2018 - Special Public Review Draft Briefing"

### Problems:that should be corrected in the new California Water {lajn

#### *1 - failure to fully-fairly inform public of planning options*

~ The cost of mailing an illustration of the CWP update process to all households is insignificant as it relates to the value of input from thousands of experts in every field, and to the obligation of public servants to inform citizens fully and fairly of all planning options. The new Plan should arrange to correct this deficiency by submitting a summary of basic data to all households, with clear illustration of the plan process in terms easily understood by persons who have no special knowledge of land-water-energy planning practices. .

#### *2 - failure to enforce CA Water Code*

~ Officials explicitly ordered to "guide all or any stormwaters into soils of their district" have consistently defied thi instruction, causing huge loss of this critical public resource in addition to the enormous cost of storm drains, flood control defense and water contamination correction systems that would have not been needed if State Law was enforced. In addition to these losses, a wide variety of well-ocummented diseases and deaths have resulted, dramatically magnifying medical costs.. DWR should announce in the new Plan its intention to work with other agencies to achieve maximum compliance with State Water Law.

#### *3- exporting Upstate water to water-rich Downstate region*

~ Southern California receives 7 trillion gallons of rainwater yearly on average, of which 4.6 trillion gallons is wholly 'catchable' according to federal experts. This amount would supply six times the needs of

all Downstate homes if the CA Water Code is complied with. Allowing this loss is wholly unacceptable. Has the DWR fully and fairly stated its reasons for allowing this waste?

#### *4- allowing MWD to misinform teachers-students*

~ The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has abused its powers by spending public funds to promote false and misleading perceptions of California's water resource management. DWR has been complicit in this distribution of misinformation and has a duty to correct and compensate for its negligence. This obligation must be factored into the DWR Plan Update.

#### *5- failure to require agencies like Vista to 'use or lose' water*

~ San Diego County's Vista Irrigation District allows ~50 billion gallons of the 68 billion gallon annual runoff volume to its Henshaw Reservoir watershed to be lost. That gives a justification for its purchase of five billion gallons of imported water yearly. This flagrant abuse of powers and violation of State Law is compounded by failure to share surplus water with adjacent districts. This, then, gives rise to concerns that the purchase of large acreage was a ruse to make the land tax-free until private sector profiteers gain control of it, now in the near future. DWR planners have a duty to make the huge volume of rainfall and groundwater of this area available to the public and prevent land sale profiteering related to the management of water resources.

#### *6- allowing vast quantities of water to be lost by evaporation*

~ Water managers of Southern California make no significant effort to reduce the 2 million gallons per acre loss of water from reservoirs by diverting most reservoir waters to percolation fields that recharge aquifers to keep wells full. The DWR Plan should ensure that standard USDA planning is used to minimize evaporative losses cost-effectively...

#### *7- allowing algae cyanobacteria to flourish in reservoirs*

~ Health damage by algae pollution, clearly revealed by ATCV-1 chlorovirus and other studies, has been ignored by the DWR and other public servants. The DWR Plan should include immediate steps to correct the damage this fully proven hazard is causing.

#### *8- erasing algae pollution in reservoirs on satellite photos*

~ This brazen coverup makes a mockery of transparency promises of State Legislators. Hiding a major health problem from public view is a criminal activity that must be ended by the new DWR Plan.

#### *9- diverting cheap hydropower from public dams to MWD use*

~ The trick of pumping enormous volumes of water over a mile high to meet the needs of commercial enterprises with the cost borne by all homeowners is unacceptable. In addition, it is a covert means to force the public to pay for privately generated electricity.

The new DWR Plan should address this combined extortion problem.

#### *10- failure to provide plentiful ponds for wildfire suppression*

~ Adoption of federally recommended/funded rainwater management technologies would produce the collateral benefit of thousands of small ponds throughout the State, offering inexpensive fire suppression and reliable protection of lives in addition to providing valuable recreational benefits. The new DWR Plan should make this clear to all officials

#### *11- failure to educate public about wildfire suppression methods*

~ DWR has an obligation to inform citizens about alternative planning and design techniques that allow individuals to access wellwater, enhancing the value of properties and generating income from crops.

#### *12 - frequent use of false premises and flawed data in publications*

~ The new DWR Plan should include a means to ensure that its publications avoid conjecture, unsubstantiated premises and assumptions of truth that are not fully documented.

Some examples of faulty premises and data:

~ Stating that importing water to Southern California is necessary is contrary to factual data. This region receives much more rainfall than residents use. Official texts should make this perfectly clear. Citizens have a right to be shown the facts and figures that federal files reveal, including the total volume of rainfall for their community rather than inches of depth or the amount of runoff..

~ Referring to benefits of injecting sewage effluent to aquifers is an insult to

the public's intelligence. This practice should be reported by DWR in sufficient detail to clarify that it conflicts with commonsense planning of communities like Fresno/Clovis where polluted water is percolated through topsoil that intercepts complex chemical compounds and converts these to nutrients. DWR personnel should point out that storage of sewage effluent in aquifers is provably neither cost-effective nor in compliance with the CA Water Code

~ DWR cooperation to dump sewage to ocean waters is both contrary to common sense and deliberate misinformation, the new Plan should include steps to end this practice..

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